

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 751

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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PASS STR; H PASS CODEL, MEXICO PASS AMB YEUTTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJECT: MTN: SECTORS GROUP MEETING NOVEMBER 3-7, 1975

REF: A) STATE 252745 B) STATE 252782

1. SUMMARY. SECTORS GROUP MEETING NOV. 3-7 CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT, AFTER SEVERAL DEADLOCKED RESTRICTED SESSIONS, TO INSTRUCT SECRETARIAT TO BEGIN DATA COMPILATION WORK ON ADDITIONAL SECTORS, INCLUDING THE THREE (CHEMICALS, HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, ELECTRONICS) PROPOSED FOR STUDY BY THE U.S., AND BY AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE THE PILOT STUDY ON ORES AND METALS. SECURITY OF SUPPLY WAS DISCUSSED IN RELATION TO THE CANADIAN PAPER ON COPPER, AND THERE WAS A SHORT, NONCONTROVERSIAL DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARIAT STUDY OF SECTORS OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. TWO RESTRICTED SESSIONS FAILED TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SEVERAL OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS, LED BY THE EC, ON THE ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL SECTORAL STUDIES DISPUTE COMPROMISE ATTEMPTS BY SINGAPORE AND THE CHAIRMAN. FINAL AGREEMENT TO MOVE FORWARD ON DATA COLLECTION IN SECTORS NOT YET COVERED IN SECRETARIAT STUDIES WAS HAMMERED OUT IN SMALL, PLURILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH THE EC, NORDICS AND SWITZERLAND. THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP WILL BE SET FOR SOMETIME IN LATE MARCH.

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2. ADDITIONAL STUDIES IN CHEMICALS, ELECTRONIS AND HEAVY ELECTRICAL MACHINERY SECTORS. IN WEEK OF PLENARY AND TWO RESTRICTED SESSIONS OF THE GROUP, U.S. (MCNAMARA) ARGUED AT LENGTH FOR INITIATION OF THREE STUDIES BY SECRETARIAT IN THE CHEMICALS, ELECTRONICS AND HEAVY ELECTRICAL MACHINERY SECTORS. DRAWING UPON JUSTIFICATION PAPER (REF B), AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN INDUSTRY SECTOR ADVISORY REPORTS AND CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, WE PRESENTED

TO GROUP A DETAILED RATIONALE WHY IT WAS NECESSARY FOR GROUP TO BEGIN TO ANALYZE THESE THREE SECTORS AT THIS TIME. EXCEPT FOR LUKEWARM SUPPORT FROM A FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (CHILE FOR ANDIAN GROUP, SINGAPORE, KOREA) THAT WE HAD CANVASSED IN LOBBYING EFFORT DURING WEEK PRIOR TO MEETING AND ACQUIESCENCE BY THE CANADIANS AND AUSTRALIANS, THE U.S. PROPOSAL MET WITH UNIFIED, NONCOMPROMISING RESISTANCE FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LED BY EC, JAPAN, NORDICS AND SWITZERLAND. MAIN ARGUMENTS OF THESE DELEGATIONS CENTERED ON SUSPICION THAT U.S. REQUEST FOR STUDIES IS A FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD TO NEGOTIATIONS IN THESE SECTORS TO WHICH THEY ARE OPPOSED. JAPAN IMPLIED THAT U.S. INTEREST IN THESE SECTORS WAS PROTECTIONIST INSPIRED, AIMING AT LESS LIBERALIZATION AND UNDER GENERAL APPROACHES AIMING AT LESS LIBERALIZATION THEN UNDER GENERAL APPROACHES IN THE TARIFFS AND NTM GROUPS. THESE FOUR DELEGATIONS (9 EC COUNTRIES, 4 NORDICS, SWISS AND JAPAN) EMPHASIZED THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO GENERAL APPROACHES IN OTHER GROUPS AND FEAR THAT STUDIES IN THESE SECTORS WILL LEAD TO FRAGMENTATION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A SECTORAL BASIS THEREBY CRITICALLY WEAKENING THE OVERALL DEGREE OF LIBERALIZATION IN MTN.

3. IN SPITE OF ATTEMPTS IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL SESSIONS BY CHAIR (DO SOMETHING LESS THAN THREE FULL STUDIES), SINGAPORE (START NOW ON ONE OR TWO STUDIES) AND SWITZERLAND (BEGIN TO COLLECT DATA SERIES FOR ALL SECTORS ACROSS THE BOARD), TO SEEK A COMPROMISE, EC (ABBOTT) REMAINED INFLEXIBLE STATING THAT THE EC WAS "FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO STUDIES ON THESE SECTORS" AT THIS TIME, EVEN IF THEY WERE LIMITED ONLY TO THE COLLECTION OF DATA. IT EMPHASIZED THAT EC HAD NOT SUPPORTED BUT ONLY ACQUIESCED IN PILOT STUDY IN THE METALS SECTOR. AT ONE POINT, IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREATENED TO WITHDRAW ITS AGREEMENT IN PLENARY SESSION TO AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE STUDY IN THE METALS SECTOR IF THE US CONTINUED TO INSIST ON THE ADDITIONAL STUDIES AT THIS TIME, SAYING THAT THE EC WAS PREPARED TO BLOCK ALL FURTHER WORK BY THE SECRETARIAT AND HAVE THE MATTER REFERRED TO THE TNC. SUPPORT OF US PROPOSAL BY CHILE, SPEAKING FOR THE ANDEAN GROUP AND SINGAPORE, FOR THE ASEAN GROUP, WAS STRONGER IN THE RESTRICTED SESSIONS THAN IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS WITH EMPHASIS ON NEED TO LOOK AT SECTORS FROM POINT OF VIEW OF INTEREST TO LDCS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR DIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT.

4. FINAL COMPROMISE WAS HAMMERED OUT IN BILATERAL US/EC DISCUSSIONS WITH NORDIC AND SWISS PARTICIPATION AFTER SECOND RESTRICTED SESSION SIMILARLY ENDED IN STALEMATE.

THIS COMPROMISE INSTRUCTS SECRETARIAT TO PROCEED TO COLLECTION OF READILY AVAILABLE DATA FOR SECTORS NOT YET EXAMINED BY THE SECRETARIAT. WHILE SUMMING UP IS NOT EXPLICIT, THERE IS IMPLICIT UNDERSTANDING THAT PETROLEUM AND COAL, WORKS OF ART, ARMAMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS SECTORS WILL NOT BE INCLUDED. AT AUSTRALIA'S REQUEST, TACITLY SUPPORTED BY U.S., SUMMING AVOIDS REFERENCE TO GATT TARIFF STUDY (ON INDUSTRIAL SECTORS) IN ORDER NOT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO POINT OF WHETHER AGRICULTURE WOULD OR WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED.

5. ORES AND METALS STUDY. DRAWING UPON COMMENTS BY OTHER DELEGATIONS IN CRITICIZING METALS STUDY, WE PROPOSED THAT SECRETARIAT UPDATE AND IMPROVE ITS STUDY OF THE METALS SECTOR ALONG THE LINES OF ATTACHMENT 2 OF REFTEL. THIS PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED BY THE GROUP, ALTHOUGH THE EC AT ONE POINT DURING THE RESTRICTED SESSION THREATENED TO BLOCK FURTHER WORK IN THE METALS SECTOR BY PORTRAYING (UNSUCCESSFULLY) ITS WILLINGNESS FOR CONTINUED WORK IN THIS SECTOR AS A COMPROMISE THAT THE EC WAS WILLING TO MAKE IN ORDER TO GET US TO DROP DEMANDS FOR THREE ADDITIONAL SECTOR STUDIES. GROUP FINALLY AGREED THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD IMPROVE METALS SECTORS STUDY ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY US BUT WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT DETAILED STUDY OF METALS SECTOR WILL REPRESENTS ONLY A PILOT STUDY EFFORT IN REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE SECTORAL APPROACH. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. CANADIAN PROPOSAL. CANADA (CLARK) OPENED DISCUSSION BY STATING THAT CANADA DID NOT EXPECT DETAILED COMMENTS ON ITS PAPER "ELEMENTS OF A SECTOR NEGOTIATION ON COPPER" AT THIS MEETING BUT RATHER THAN IT WANTS TO BEGIN BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL DISCUSSIONS EARLY IN 1976 WITH OTHER DELS ON THE ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE CANADIAN PAPER. CLARK STRESSED THAT CANADIAN INTENT WAS NOT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON COPPER AT THIS TIME BUT TO ASSURE THAT SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS ON COPPER (AND PRESUMABLY CERTAIN OTHER NONFERROUS METALS) MOVE IN PARALLEL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 752

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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7. HE LINKED POSSIBILITY OF A FLOOR IN THE TARIFF
FORMULAE WITH NECESSITY OF CANADA TO HAVE PARALLEL
NEGOTIATIONS ON A SECTORAL BASIS SINCE FORMULAE WOULD
BE UNLIKELY TO SOLVE TARIFF ESCALATION FACING CANADIAN
SEMIMANUFACTURED COPPER PRODUCTS. CLARK ALSO BROACHED
SUBJECT OF SECURITY OF SUPPLY IN CONTEXT OF COPPER AGRE-
MENT, TYING IT CLOSELY TO PROVISIONS WHICH WILL ASSURE

THAT IMPROVED ACCESS TO MARKETS IS NOT ERODED BY
FUTURE TRADE RESTRICTING ACTIONS.

8. CANADIAN PAPER WAS ATTACKED VIGOROUSLY BY EC,
NORDICS (MANHUSEN) SWISS ((EBERHARD) AND JAPAN AS BEING PREMATURE,
DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM IMPERFECT AND INCOMPLETE COLLEDTION
OF DATA AND UNMANAGEABLE IN PRACTICE. EC STRESSED THAT
METALS STUDY IS INSUFFICIENT BASIS FOR CANADIAN CONCLUSIONS
SINCE STUDY LACKS ANALYSIS AND HAS DATA GAPS (NTMS,
PRICES, PROJECTIONS) BUT STOPPED SHORT OF RECOMMENDING
THAT METALS STUDY BE IMPROVED. ALL DELS
COMMENTING ON PAPER EMPHASIZED THAT SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS ARE
A COMPLEMENTARY TECHNIQUE THAT SHOULD WAIT THE DEVELOPMENT
OF GENRAL SOLUTIONS IN THE TRAARIFFS AND NTM GROUPS. THE
SWISS AND NORDICS THOUGHT THAT ELEMENTS IN THE CANADIAN
PAPER WERE POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR WHAT THE MTN IS SEEKING
TO NEGOTIATE ON A BROADER RANGE WHILE EC POINTED OUT
ILLOGIC OF TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A SERIES OF NTM CODES ON A
SECTORAL BASIS. LDCA APPLAUDED CANADIAN INITIATIVE OF
INCLUDING IN THEIR PROPOSAL POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL AND
DIFFERENTIAL TARIFF MEASURES FOR LDCA AND HOPED FOR
SIMILAR CANADIAN SUGGESTIONS ON NTMS. US DEL,
LACKING INSTRUCTIONS, MADE NO COMMENTS EXCEPT TO DEFER
US OBSERVATIONS UNTIL NEXT MEETING AND TO WELCOME
CANADIAN INTEREST IN SECURITY OF SUPPLY (SEE BELOW).

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9. SECURITY OF SUPPLY. CANADIAN INCLUSION OF SECURITY
OF SUPPLY AS AN ELEMENT IN CANADIAN PAPER LED TO FIRST,
LIMITED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT N THE SECTORS
GROUP. THE EC SEIZED UPON CANADIAN INITIATION OF SUBJECT
AND POSED POINTED QUESTIONS ABOUT CANADIAN EXPORT
RESTRAINT PRACTICES, PRODING CANADA INTO DEFENDING
VIGORUOSLY ITS EXPORT ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION ON
GROUNDS THAT IT IS NECESSITATED BY IMPORT RESTRICTING
PRACTICES OF OTHER NATIONS IN FIELD OF SEMIMANUFACTURES.
CANADA, READING FROM LISTS OF EXPORT RESTRAINTS IN METALS
SECTOR SUBMITTED BY EC, JAPAN, CANADA AND US, ENCOURAGED
OTHERS TO SIMILARLY EXPLAIN THEIR EXPORT RESTRIC-
TIONS PRACTICES. U.S. WELCOMED CANADIAN INITIATIVE,
NOTED IMPORTANCE AND RAMIFICATIONS OF SUPPLY ISSUE IN
SECTORS GROUP, EXPLAINED FORMER U.S. EXPORT RESTRICTIONS
IN METALS SECTOR AND SUGGESTED THAT GROUP CONTINUE
EXAMINATION OF THIS ISSUE AT NEXT MEETING.

10. LDC STUDIES. DISCUSSION OF STUDIES OF INTEREST TO
LDCA WAS LIMITED TO A FEW INTERVENTIONS MOSTLY FROM
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AT SINGAPORE'S REQUEST, THE GROUP
AGREED TO HAVE SECRETARIAT DO FURTHER WORK IN THE WOOD
SECTOR BY ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE DATA INTO CONIFEROUS

AND NONCONIFEROUS WOODS. MEXICAN SUGGESTION THAT PROCESSED FOODS SECTOR SHOULD BE EXAMINED WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY OTHER LDCS AND WAS IGNORED BY THE CHAIR (TOMIC). SOME (INDIA, NIGERIA) ARGUED WEAKLY THAT TEXTILES SHOULD BE LOOKED AT, OTHERS (SPAIN, BRAZIL) THAT ALL SECTORS OF INTEREST TO LDCS NEEDED EXAMINATION AND THAT DOOR TO FURTHER STUDIES SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHILE STRESSING NEED FOR DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT WERE NOT PARTICULARLY ACTIVE, PARTLY BECUASE SCHEDULE FOR GROUP MEETING CONFLICTED WITH MEETINGS OF UNCTAD GROUPS.

11. TEXT OF CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING UP SENT SEPTTEL.

12. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT DATA WILL BE COMPILED ON MOST SECTORS, INCLUDING THE THREE PROPOSED BY THE US, GIVES US CONSIDERABLY MORE FLEXIBILITY AS IT DEVELOPS ITS POLICY AND POSITIONS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BOTH THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS ITS SPECIFIC INDUSTRY OBJECTIVES. NEVERTHELESS, OTHER DELEGATIONS CONTINUE TO BE DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF US MOTIVATIONS IN SECTORS GROUP, LINKING OUR STRONG PUSH FOR ADDITIONAL STUDIES TO OUR CONCEPT OF "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES (SECO), PUT FORWARD IN TARIFFS GROUP SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

13. EC FOUND ITSELF IN SEVERAL DILEMMAS. WE BELIEVE IT WAS SENSITIVE TO POSSIBILITY THAT ITS NEGATIVE APPROACH TO US PROPOSALS IN SECTORS GROUP WOULD ADVERSELY INFLUENCE US ATTITUDE IN OECD STEEL CONSULTATIONS REQUESTED BY EC. EC WAS ALSO CAUGHT IN ITS OWN RHETORIC IN ARGUING AGAINST SINGLING OUT ANY SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES FOR ADDITIONAL STUDIES, AS DEBATING POINT IT (AS WELL AS NORDICS AND SWITZERLAND) SAID WHY NOT STUDY ALL SECTORS, WHICH WAS THE EVENTUAL BASIS FOR THE COMPROMISE FAVORING THE US POSITION. WE BELIEVE EC AT END OF MEETING SUSPECTED THAT US PLANNED SUCH COMPREHENSIVE DATA COLLECTION EXERCISE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING TO ADVANCE US SECO CONCEPT FAND THAT US PROPOSAL FOR THREE ADDITIONAL SECTOR STUDUES WAS SIMPLY DIVERSIONARY TACTIC.

14. CHAIRMAN OF SECTORS GROUP (TOMIC OF YUGOSLAVIA), WITH WHOM WE CLOSELY CORRGINATED, WAS VERY HELPFUL TO US DEL THROUGHOUT THE MEETING WITHOUT DISPLAYING OBVIOUS BIAS. YUGOSLAVIA IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN STUDIES IN THE SECTORS SUGGESTED BY US BEACUASE OF PRESENT OR PLANNED YUGOSLAVIAN INDUSTRIES AND THEIR PLANS FOR EXPORTS TO THE EC. END COMMENT. WALKER

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